



Chair (Vancouver DPAC) <chair@vancouverdpac.org>

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## Special Board Meeting - QEA closure consideration

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Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 9:32 AM

To: Carmen Cho <Carmen.Cho@vsb.bc.ca>, Estrellita Gonzalez <estrellita.gonzalez@vsb.bc.ca>, Fraser Ballantyne <Fraser.Ballantyne@vsb.bc.ca>, Janet Fraser <Janet.Fraser@vsb.bc.ca>, Lois Chan-Pedley <Lois.Chan-Pedley@vsb.bc.ca>, Jennifer Reddy <Jennifer.Reddy@vsb.bc.ca>, Allan Wong <Allan.Wong@vsb.bc.ca>, Oliver Hanson <Oliver.Hanson@vsb.bc.ca>, Barbara Parrott <Barbara.Parrott@vsb.bc.ca>, Ricky Huang <rhuang@vsb.bc.ca>  
Cc: "Vice-Chair (Vancouver DPAC)" <vicechair@vancouverdpac.org>, David Nelson <dnelson@vsb.bc.ca>, Helen McGregor <hmcgregor@vsb.bc.ca>

Dear Trustees:

I am writing to you in advance of your decision this evening on the closure of QE Annex.

Your decision tonight will not only be impactful on existing QEA families, but precedent setting for the district as a whole.

Earlier this year, DPAC communicated a position endorsed by over 30 PACs, calling on trustees to defer decisions on closures until transparent planning encompassing assumptions, data and targets were in place. (Motion and rationale: [http://vancouverdpac.org/s/Oct-2021-General-PACs\\_-\\_DPAC-Transparent-Planning-First.pdf](http://vancouverdpac.org/s/Oct-2021-General-PACs_-_DPAC-Transparent-Planning-First.pdf)). We believe our motion spoke not only to what we feel that trustees need to make an informed decision but also to what parents and public need to have confidence in the decision. Preserving and enhancing trust in public education is a key obligation of the board.

The QEA closure engagement provided considerable information (background, data, rationale and forecasts) to participants. In spite of this, the "What We Heard" report from Delaney highlighted a lack of trust and concerns about long-term planning from participants.

We believe that a significant contributor to the lack of trust in this closure process is forecasting that not only covers a relatively short time span but also flies in the face of what parents see. To be proper stewards of public education, trustees must not only ask themselves if these forecasts make sense but should also consider whether ten-year forecasts should inform a closure discussion. For example, declining enrollment of Westside schools such as Bayview and University Hill are cited in support of a closure. Trustees must ask themselves not only whether or not those predictions echo what they see in the community but also whether or not forecasts that do not acknowledge and include allowance for the clear direction of other levels of government regarding future development should inform a permanent decision such as school closure.

Trustees should ask themselves whether they have transparent data to make an informed decision and preserve the public trust.

Thank you,

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Gord Lau  
Chair, Vancouver DPAC

*Honouring the traditional, unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples*

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